

House of Representatives from Ohio, as well as the first to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee. During her tenure, she has led the charge to make quality healthcare and education available for all. Additionally, she has fought tirelessly for working people, having introduced the Predatory Mortgage Lending Practices Reduction Act, the Campus Fire Protection Act, and the courageous "Count Every Vote" Act.

I have been honored to stand with Congresswoman TUBBS JONES in representing Cleveland for the past 8 years. The Congresswoman's dedication to the city is unmatched. She fought tirelessly to help not only save more than 1,000 Cleveland jobs with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, when it was nearly shut down, but to add an additional 475 jobs. And when proposals were issued to eliminate 700 jobs in Northeast Ohio at the NASA Glenn Research Center, Congresswoman TUBBS JONES helped lead a charge that crossed party lines, and was successful in preserving this critical part of Ohio's economy.

Throughout her public service career, family has always remained her top priority. She was a giving wife to her late husband, Mervyn L. Jones Sr. for 27 years, and is the proud mother of their son, Mervyn L. Jones II. Still, her dedication to public service has not wavered. Congresswoman TUBBS JONES was elected judge of Cleveland's Municipal Court in 1981, and later served on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County. From 1994 to 1999, she worked as the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor, before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1999.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, it is truly an honor to recognize the most distinguished, Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES for 25 years of public service to the city of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, and all Americans whom she now serves. Her successes are testaments to hard work and dedication to the people she works so diligently to serve: her constituents. There is no other person I would rather have the privilege of working with in representing Cleveland than STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, and few that I admire more.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH GHELETA

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elizabeth Gheleta who is retiring after more than three decades of service as Executive Director of the Service League of San Mateo County, California.

Elizabeth Gheleta joined the Service League of San Mateo County in 1968, and in the ensuing 38 years she has worked tirelessly to improve the correctional system and provide opportunities for the incarcerated to create change in their lives. She became Executive Director in 1978, when funding cuts under California's Proposition 13 threatened to close the Service League's doors. Under her leadership, the Service League has grown into a highly respected non-profit organization with strong community ties, 25 permanent staff and over 500 dedicated volunteers. They provide a myriad of services that have helped rebuild

the lives of thousands of County inmates, their children and their families.

Elizabeth Gheleta has been responsible for the development and expansion of in-jail programs to help inmates learn how to function better once they are released, increasing their chances of successful reentry into the community. In addition to religious services, she has helped initiate hundreds of educational and self-improvement programs which focus on transition, substance abuse recovery, personal responsibility, permanent housing and family life skills. Today, Service League employees and volunteers provide more than 800 such programs every year. Under Ms. Gheleta's leadership, the Service League has also developed four residential facilities for former inmates and launched programs to assist the children and families of inmates, especially during the holidays. Ms. Gheleta's vision of improved inmate services has resulted in highly effective programs that are the gold standard for correctional systems nationwide.

Elizabeth Gheleta has earned the highest respect of her colleagues, her community, and every individual and family to whom she has devoted her career. Because of her leadership, tenacity, creativity and belief in others, thousands of former inmates and their families have reintegrated into society and have become responsible and productive members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is a special privilege for me to honor my friend Elizabeth Gheleta, her extraordinary career and her extraordinary achievements. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring her because she has bettered the soul of our community as well as our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE RORY FORRESTAL

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I am proud to rise in recognition of an American patriot and good friend, Detective Rory Forrestal, for his many outstanding contributions to the Suffolk County Police Department on Long Island. On behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I thank Detective Forrestal for his extraordinary service and accomplishments over the past 20 years that have earned him several decorations, the respect and admiration of his fellow officers, and the gratitude of Suffolk County's residents.

A graduate of St Joseph's College, Detective Forrestal has proven his courage and commitment to Long Island's residents time and again. While fighting crime and keeping Long Islanders safe during his tours in the department's narcotics and general services divisions, he compiled an impeccable service record. Many of my constituents may recall when he was one of two Suffolk police officers who helped a woman deliver her baby at her home in Mastic Beach, only a few hours after the hospital misdiagnosed her labor pains and released her.

As a veteran and expert investigator, Detective Forrestal was selected by the department in 1999 to help launch the computer crimes unit when criminal use of the Internet by sexual predators along with other forms of cyber-

fraud and exploitation expanded dramatically. Performing what some might consider a tough and unpleasant job, he has conducted this important job with tenacity, success, and steadfast resolve. His hard work and diligence have directly resulted in several arrests and protected countless children from cyber-predators. I was very grateful when he attended an Internet workshop that I hosted for parents last year.

Among several prestigious decorations, Detective Forrestal has been awarded the Suffolk County Police Department's Detective of the Year for 1998; the Suffolk County Detectives Association Hawkins Award for investigative excellence in 1998; the Parents for Megan Law Champion for Children Award in 2004; and the Department of Justice Prosecutors Award in 2005.

Today, Detective Forrestal is an instructor at the Suffolk County Police Academy and a guest lecturer at schools as well as parent and professional advocacy organizations. His knowledge and expertise, particularly in the area of computer crimes, are always appreciated and well received. His continuing dedication to protecting children from Internet predators is a tremendous comfort to parents in our community and will ensure that our sons and daughters are protected to the maximum extent that our Government can provide.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's First Congressional District, I thank Detective Rory Forrestal for his outstanding service and wish him continued success in the years ahead. He is a shining example of what we look for in our police officers and other public servants, and I am proud to honor and represent him in this chamber.

BROOKLYN CENTER HIGH SCHOOL BAND PLAYS AN AMAZING, GRAMMY-WINNING TUNE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today with an uplifting story of a high school band from the Third Congressional District of Minnesota.

Christine Porter, the Director of the Brooklyn Center High School Band, has done amazing things with the band and in the process has touched the lives of numerous young people and their parents. And the entire Brooklyn Center community has rallied around these inspirational students with an uplifting melody of support and encouragement.

The band program was in jeopardy when Chris Porter took over and turned the program around. Now, the band has received high praise from many places—including the Grammys! In fact, they received their Grammy right here in the Nation's Capital at the Grammy Enterprise Signature School Award at the "Grammys on the Hill" event.

I had the great pleasure of meeting Director Porter and one of her talented musicians, Chanel Chatham, who were in Washington for the event.

Mr. Speaker, the Brooklyn Center High School Band program, which serves many students from disadvantaged families, was in disarray and far short of instruments, funding and

teachers when Ms. Porter took over. She took immediate steps, such as finding music students from the University of Minnesota to teach the band members. And she reached out to the community, and the community responded.

Mr. Speaker, the crescendo of support started with the Brooklyn Center Rotary Club, which saw the problem and marched forward. Under the leadership of "Mr. Brooklyn Center," Phil Cohen, past Rotary President Carrie Engh of Bremer Bank Brooklyn Center and current President Frank Slawson of American Express Financial Planners, the Rotary Club contributed \$10,000.

The Lions Club also made financial contributions and the Brooklyn Center Business Association held a golf tournament to help the band. And the Brooklyn Center Taxpayers Association pitched in, too. The people of Brooklyn Center have really come together to support the band.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Porter's inspired leadership and the band's hard work resulted in the Grammy Foundation personally delivering the \$15,000 Grammy Enterprise Award to the band at Brooklyn Center High School!

Chris Porter and Chanel Chatham received a well-deserved standing ovation. The tremendous outpouring of affection and support for the band made it all worthwhile!

The story of the Brooklyn Center High School Band even brought tears to the eyes of singer Kelly Clarkson, who was a guest of honor at the event. The story reminded Clarkson of her own high school band, and the story has warmed all of our hearts.

From the trombones to the tubas, the Brooklyn Center High Band is truly playing a joyful tune! There was a lot of hard work that went into this masterpiece.

Thank you, Chris Porter and the wonderful Brooklyn Center High School Band, for bringing so much great music into our lives and the lives of young people. You have all showed us that hard work, creativity, talent and the right instruments can make a beautiful song!

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5631,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

The Defense Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007 funds our military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, among many other things. It is very similar to the Defense Authorization bill that I supported in the Armed Services Committee and on the House floor.

The bill provides \$447.6 billion in funding, including \$70 billion in emergency funds to support military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This grand total represents about 55 percent of the entire Federal discretionary budget. Overall defense spending has risen 40 percent since September 11th and is more than currently being spent by the rest of the world combined.

Appropriating \$70 billion for the so-called bridge fund is realistic and necessary, be-

cause we must support our men and women in uniform, but I also believe the Administration must begin to take responsibility for the full cost of the war in Iraq and consider these costs through the regular appropriations process. There is no "emergency" here—we know that since this bridge fund would take us only halfway through fiscal year 2007, we should be expecting another request before the year is over. With total costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan crossing the half trillion dollar point after passage of this bill, the American people deserve greater candor from the Administration about both the predictable costs as well as the anticipated benefits of our undertakings in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although I don't agree with the "emergency" designation, I'm pleased that the conferees saw fit to increase the bridge fund levels to include \$17.1 billion to replace and refurbish Army equipment. This is the amount General Schoomaker testified that the Army needed in fiscal year 2007 to fully fund its reset program. It's true that even with this funding, the Army will still need tens of billions of dollars over the coming years for equipment rehabilitation and recapitalization—but this is an important start. The bridge fund also includes funding for Marine Corps equipment and body armor as well as \$549 million to cover costs of the enhanced insurance and death gratuity benefits.

I am pleased that the conference report fully funds military pay, benefits, and the pay raise of 2.2 percent for the base force. It also includes language that I advocated for prohibiting funding for permanent U.S. bases in Iraq.

I remain concerned about rising costs of weapons systems that have yet to be fully funded, such as the Future Combat Systems and missile defense program, among others. A recent report from the Department of Defense identified 36 major weapons systems as having significant cost overruns. And yet Congressional Budget Office projections are that we'll need to increase defense budgets by 17 percent per year simply to sustain the current force structure and weapons programs. And this is happening at the same time that operations and maintenance and personnel costs—as well as training and recruiting costs—are rising.

So Mr. Speaker, this conference report is not perfect. It does not solve or attempt to solve some of these looming budget problems. But overall, it deserves to pass and I urge its approval.

CONGRATULATING VINCENT D.
MURRAY ON RECEIVING THE
HAROLD W. MCGRAW, JR. PRIZE
IN EDUCATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vincent D. Murray, who will receive the prestigious Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education. Mr. Murray has been the principal of Henry W. Grady High School in Atlanta, Georgia since 1991.

Mr. Murray has been chosen for the prestigious 19th annual award for his leadership in transforming his inner-city public school into a higher achieving institution in which graduation

and college-going rates consistently have risen above the district and state averages.

Sixty-six percent of Grady High students are African American and 44 percent qualify for free or reduced price lunch. When Murray joined Grady High, more than a third of all freshmen were held back and repeated their freshmen year. The student body's passing rate on the Georgia graduation test was below the statewide average.

Mr. Murray has been consistent in his efforts and focused on innovative reform. The result is that today, four out of every five graduates go directly on to college or university, including Ivy League institutions. Average scores on the graduation test, SAT and Advanced Placement exams exceed district, state and national averages. Graduation rates have risen 38 percentage points for African-American students (to 84 percent), 26 points for economically disadvantaged students (to 86 percent) and 25 points for white students (to 97 percent). As a result of Murray's success in transforming Grady High, the U.S. Department of Education recognized him in 2000 with the Department's Title I Distinguished School Award. In 2006, the governor of Georgia named him a High Performance Principal, a top honor in the state.

Mr. Murray has a bachelor of arts degree in history and English from Morehouse College, a master of arts degree in early childhood education from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in psychology/learning disabilities from Boston University. He has pursued post-doctoral studies at Clark-Atlanta University and Georgia State University.

I salute Mr. Vincent D. Murray for his outstanding contributions to education. He has dedicated himself to improving education in this country and his accomplishments continue to make a difference.

URGING THE CENTERS FOR MEDI-
CARE AND MEDICAID TO RECON-
SIDER IVIG REIMBURSEMENT

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring your attention to a very important issue relating to medical reimbursement by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement Act and Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) created new reimbursement mechanisms for IVIG therapies. CMS's implementation of the MMA has resulted in reduced access to life-saving therapies for Medicare beneficiaries. CMS potentially closed the door to medical treatment when they issued the CY 2007 proposed rules for the physician fee schedule and the hospital outpatient prospective payment system, which, if implemented, would effectively limit IVIG treatment by not properly reimbursing providers.

IVIG is a vital medical service. It is a plasma-derived therapy tailored to the individual's diseases and treatment options to achieve optimal results. Nearly 10,000 Medicare beneficiaries are afflicted with primary immune deficiency (PID) which only responds to IVIG therapy. For many Americans there is no substitute for IVIG treatment.